



# Southwest Public Lands People



## Employee News of the

### San Juan National Forest & San Juan Field Office-BLM

September, 2003

## COLUMBINE NEWS



Barbara Hodge (left), USFS/BLM Visitor Information Specialist, answers a visitor's questions at the new San Juan Mountains Center in Silverton.

## New San Juan Office Opens in Silverton

By Ann Bond

**SILVERTON** – There's a new San Juan Public Lands office in southwestern Colorado. The San Juan Mountains Center opened on Empire Street in Silverton last month to act as a visitor information and interpretive center.

The effort is funded by the San Juan Public Lands Center, Mountain Studies Institute, and San Juan Mountains Association.

"The great thing is that it shows real Forest Service and BLM commitment to this community," said Bev Rich, San Juan County Treasurer. "Our county is 86 percent public lands, but until now, we haven't had a real agency presence up here."

For the past seven years, Barbara Hodge, Forest Service/BLM Visitor Information Specialist (and year-round Silverton resident) has answered visitor inquiries about public lands at the Silverton Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. She's ecstatic that the agencies now have their own facility.

"I had limited space and visibility at the Chamber, just one table in the corner," Hodge said. "Now we have a whole interpretive room, a

bookstore, reference materials, plus we sell a lot of maps."

The interpretive portion of the center is designed to stimulate the interests of both adults and children, with hands-on materials, natural history displays, and computer access. The most commonly asked questions Barb gets are about where to hike and how to drive the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway.

*"... it shows real Forest Service and BLM commitment to this community,"  
Bev Rich, San Juan County Treasurer*

The Center also provides offices for Columbine Snow Ranger Denny Hogan and BLM Alpine Loop Rangers Lisa Richardson and Scott Jackson. They share office space with Mountain Studies Institute Director of Education Ryland Gardner.

"It gives us a street-front presence to reach the thousands of people who arrive by train and the hundreds more who drive into Silverton," said Ellen Stein, Mountain Studies Institute Executive Director.

The San Juan Mountains Center will be open through the fall from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Although the visitor center will close in wintertime, the offices will remain open year round, and the facility will be available for public lectures and meetings.

*(Ann Bond is the Public Affairs Specialist for the San Juan Public Lands Center.)*

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# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Linda Tanny and Joe Milburn go through some of the paperwork involved in handling contracts for the San Juan.

## Same Faces, New Jobs

By Ann Bond and Lindsay Mosley

**Durango** – There's been some reshuffling of positions in the San Juan Public Lands Contracting Office, but the faces remain the same. Joe Milburn and Linda Tanny have received promotions, but both will still be handling contracts for the San Juan.

Joe has been a Contract Specialist in Durango since 1986. Due to reorganization in 1998, he became a Regional Office Contract Specialist but kept his Durango duty station.

Joe's new responsibilities are much the same as they've been for the past 17 years, with the exception that he will now be able to handle projects up to \$1 million.

"What I like best about this job is the people I get to deal with on a daily basis," Joe says. "From Admin to Engineering and all the Resource folks, the quality people on the San Juan make the job easier. Getting out in the woods to see a huge variety of projects is also a big plus."

Joe holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mesa College in Grand Junction. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family; wife Melanie, son Brandon, 23, and daughter Jessi, 15, "going on 22," according to Joe. He also officiates high school football

games and rides motorcycles.

Linda was promoted to Contract Specialist position with the Regional Contracting Team. This is a detached position stationed in Durango, so she will remain here.

### 2002 SJNF Contracts (It's a BIG Job!)

44 contracts	= \$2.8 million
16 fire rehab contracts	= \$3 million
29 purchase orders	= \$422,000
Credit card/checks	= \$776,224
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= \$6.9 million</b>

Linda's vacant Purchasing Agent position has been advertised, with a replacement to be hired soon.

Linda started with the USFS in 1983 at the Yampa Ranger District on the Routt NF. She moved to the San Juan Supervisor's Office in 1985 as Procurement Clerk. In 1988, she was promoted to Purchasing Agent.

Currently, Linda handles contracts on the San Juan for construction projects up to \$25,000, and contracts up to \$50,000 for services and supplies.

"What I enjoy about my job is that I get to learn a little bit about everything, from construction to archaeology. Linda says.

"After significant training, my contract warrant will eventually go up to administer contracts for up to \$100,000 for services, supplies, and construction."

Linda attended Colorado State University for three years, studying Bio-Agricultural Science, and after a long hiatus, finished her fourth year at Fort Lewis College, where she received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology.

When Linda has extra time on her hands, she enjoys getting outdoors to walk her three Bichon Frise dogs; Lily, Bubba, and Ipo.

She is married to Vic. Their daughter, Andrea, 18, is attending Colorado State University, studying Zoology as a freshman. "Her first day of school is my first day at my new position," Linda says. But the nest isn't empty just yet. Her son, Kurt, 16, attends Durango High.

## Annual SJMA Picnic a Great Success

The San Juan Mountains Association held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in August at the Edgemont Picnic Area. The event was well attended, with live music provided by Ranger Rick and his sweet lil' *Swamp Thing*.

Kathe Hayes, SJMA Volunteer Coordinator Extraordinaire (seen here hamming it up for the camera) says SJMA had the best showing ever of FS and BLM employees at the annual event, which really meant a lot to the SJMA volunteers who help out with agency projects.



# PAGOSA PUBLIC LANDS NEWS

## Ayala's the New FMO

### PAGOSA SPRINGS -

Edward Ayala arrived as Fire Management Officer in mid-June, just in time to help us through one of the most active fire seasons the Pagosa Ranger District has ever seen.

As FMO, Ed is responsible for our fire organization, including prescribed fires, prevention, management, and suppression. He also works with neighboring agencies and is organizing joint fire training with the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District.

Ed comes from Yuma, Arizona, where he worked for the Lower Colorado River Fire Management Group. The group is responsible for lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management in Arizona, Nevada, and California.

Over the past three years, he had managed fuels programs and developed burn plans for all three agencies, supervised a joint agency dispatch, and managed fire offices for five wildlife refuges, two BIA offices, and two BLM Field Offices.

Ayala holds a Bachelor's degree in social psychology and a minor in speech communications from Northern Arizona University and has numerous credits for post-graduate management courses.

Ed started with the USFS in fire and recreation in Sedona, Arizona, on the Coconino NF. While in Region 3, he also worked in Flagstaff and on the Coronado NF.

His experience includes Station Manager, Hot shot Squad Boss, Aviation Manager, Contracting Officer, and a detail as Forest Fire Management Officer and Aviation Officer.

Ed also worked at the San Dimas Technology and Development Center in San Dimas, California, as Contracting Representative for national fire retardant contracts.

The Center serves as a national resource with the primary purpose of supporting USFS internal activities. The San Dimas lab has a unit that focuses on air tanker base facilities and operations, such as use of fire retardant.

Ed likes to hunt and hike and looks forward to doing both in the San Juan Mountains.

"I'm enjoying the opportunity to entertain friends coming to visit my new home," he says, "although I think they're really coming to visit because they miss my home-brewed beer."



## Shep's Not Far Away

**PAGOSA SPRINGS -** Jim Shepherdson took a position this summer with the Southern Ute Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as Wildland Fire Program Manager. The position is equivalent to that of a USFS Fire Management Officer.

In June, Jim became responsible for Southern Ute lands from Pagosa Junction to Red Mesa, an area about 20 miles north to south and 80 miles east to west.

He is working with five fire districts, and adjacent federal offices and agencies, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute and Jicarilla Apache tribes.

Jim received a "warm" welcome to his new job when the Bolt Fire started on July 15, on BIA lands. It grew to a Type II fire as it spread into private and USFS land. After more than two weeks, it was controlled at 2,160 acres.

Jim worked at the Pagosa Ranger District since 1977, initially as Wildlife Biologist. His duties in fire management on the District increased over the years.

In 2000, he was selected as the District's Assistant Fire Management Officer.

"I enjoyed all my years here at Pagosa, and I won't be that far away," he says.

Jim has been recognized for his successes, which include strengthening relationships between the Forest and other fire organizations (particularly the Pagosa Fire District) and serving as a mentor to his employees.

Jim met and married Ann, Pagosa's Rangeland Management Specialist, while they worked together on the District. They have two boys, Tim and Danny. Because the Shepherdson family lives in the Arboles area, Jim now has a shorter commute to work than before.



Jim Shepherdson (affectionally known as Shep) in action, where else, but on a fire.

*(Stories and photos by Phyllis Decker, Pagosa Interpretive Specialist.)*



# DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS NEWS



Dan Dzuranin

## Dzuranin is the New TSA

**DOLORES** - Dan Dzuranin is the latest addition to the South Zone Timber Sale Administration Team, and one of the newest members of the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Dan came down from the Medicine Bow-Routt NF, where he worked in Saratoga, Wyoming, as a log scaler. While there he was able to get his certification in timber sale administration.

"As Timber Sale Administrator, I represent the Forest Service and especially the District's ID team," he says. "I like my job because I'm in the forest everyday and involved with implementation of project plans."

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Dan spent the summers of his youth exploring the city's metro parks, where he developed an interest in natural resources.

Dan graduated from the University of Montana with degrees in Resource Management and Journalism.

Before working for the Med Bow-Routt, he spent 17 years as a seasonal USFS employee, working for the Lolo NF in Montana, Idaho Panhandle NF, Payette NF, and the Boise NF, where he obtained a term position.

Dan and his wife, Michelle, have been married three years. She is looking for work in the Cortez area. Their family includes two dogs, a bird, and an aquarium full of fish. They enjoy camping, fishing, and hiking with their dogs.

## Garrigues is the New NRS

**DOLORES** - Robert Garrigues has traveled far and wide to end up in Dolores as the new Natural Resource Specialist for the BLM.

He'll be handling surface environmental compliance for energy leasing and well permits for the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Robert comes to Dolores from Pagosa Springs, where he was self-employed as the owner of a hydro-geology and geologic consulting firm.

His jobs ranged from environmental work on construction of a gas pipeline to determining availability of ground-water supplies for local ranchers.

From the late 70s to early 80s, Robert worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, where he did detailed mapping of coal reserves near Rangle, Colorado, and in the Book Cliffs, north of Grand Junction.

He left USGS to work with a Denver-based private water consultant as a geologist/hydro-geologist. During that time, he gained experience in ground-water hydro-geology, and design and completion of high-yield commercial water wells.

In 1986, Robert followed his heart and Judy, his wife, to Olympia, Washington, so she could finish her degree in nutrition. Their plan was to live there two years, but they ended up staying 15.

After working part-time jobs (coffee roaster, bicycle salesman/mechanic, cabinetmaker), Robert spent 13 years with the Washington State Department of Ecology as a research hydro-geologist.

Robert was raised on a 150-acre farm in the heart of Maryland's dairy country, where he helped his parents raise beef cattle and crops.

He attended Frederick Community College in Maryland, and received a bachelor's degree in geology from Idaho State University in Pocatello.



Robert Garrigues

Robert and Judy have two daughters. Rachel, 27, lives in Eugene, Oregon, where she is trying to break into the historic-preservation field. Alison, 25, recently graduated from the University of Colorado, Denver, with a Master's in Business Administration and became engaged the same day.

Robert says the move from Pagosa Springs to the Dolores area is a good one.

"My wife and I look forward to being closer to desert country and a longer growing season," he says.

In addition to raising llamas, they enjoy bicycling, backpacking, llama pack trips, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. Robert also enjoys woodworking, specifically, building furniture.



*(Stories and photos by Toni Kelly, Dolores Public Lands Visitor Information Specialist.)*

## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS NEWS

IT'S A Boy

Congratulations to Penny Wu, Dolores Recreation Coordinator, and her husband, Kyle Lester, who are the proud parents of a new baby boy, William John Lester, who was born August 12th at 7lbs, 4 oz., and 19" long with a full head of hair.

*Photo by Brooke Brown*



IT'S A Girl

Todd and Alisa Gardner welcomed their new baby girl, Maisy (sounds like Daisy) Serena Gardiner, into the world August 18th at 6 lbs., 5 oz., and 20" long. Todd works in the Dolores fire shop, where he is BLM Engine Foreman. Alisa works at Mesa Verde in the GIS shop.

*(As this newsletter went to press, the Gardiners were still in the hospital, so no photo was available.)*

## ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER

## Interns Work to Learn

**By Michael Williams**

**DOLORES** - The Anasazi Heritage Center received a lot of help this summer from university students and recent graduates who, in turn, gained professional experience working with BLM staff. Internships generally run for eight weeks, and a stipend and housing are provided.

"The Heritage Center's intern program is a partnership that benefits all of us by providing hands-on experience to students entering the work force and by providing new perspectives and enthusiasm to our staff," said AHC Director LouAnn Jacobson.

Joel Gamache, of Brunswick, Maine, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine in anthropology. He cataloged and photo-documented collections in curation.

Cheryl Fogle, of Albuquerque, is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. She cataloged faunal and lithic collections.

Rachel Adler, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, is a senior majoring in Archaeology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. She cataloged archives and lithic collections in curation.

Jessica Jensen, of Nutrioso, Arizona, is a junior at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff majoring in Anthropology with a Geology minor. She developed and implemented educational programs for museum visitors.

Megan Kram, of Grand Haven, Michigan, has a master's degree in Land Use Planning and Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's in Economics from DePauw University. She worked on land-use planning for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument through the Presidential Management Intern Program.



*Photo by Michael Williams*

**The 2003 Anasazi Heritage Center interns from left to right are:**

**(Top row) Joel Gamache, Cheryl Fogle, Rachel Adler, and Jessica Jensen**

**(Bottom row) Megan Kram and Kirsti Giles.**

Kirsti Giles, of Burton, Ohio is a graduate student at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She worked on the AHC loan exhibit program.



# ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER NEWS



Michael Williams and a new friend at Galapagos National Park.

## Interpretation in the Galapagos

**By Michael Williams, AHC Museum Specialist**

**DOLORES** — As part of a project coordinated through the U.S. Agency for International Development, I visited Galapagos National Park this summer. Galapagos National Park is on some volcanic islands on the equator, several hundred miles west of Ecuador. The local residents are either fishing folk, involved with tourism, or connected in some way to the park.

My trip took me to the largest island, Isabela, which is off the beaten track for most tourist cruises, but visitation is growing. It's home to five of the 11 surviving species of giant tortoise. Much of the island is covered by jagged lava fields that are difficult to cross. Due to the terrain, the tortoise species have evolved in isolation from one another. They are also on the verge of extinction.

My challenge was to help develop interpretive exhibits for a new visitor center at a tortoise-breeding facility where adult tortoises and eggs are brought for breeding, nesting, and incubation. This is necessary because introduced predators and loss of habitat make successful reproduction in the wild almost impossible. After five years, young tortoises are returned to their original habitat with a good probability of survival.

Due to miscommunications, visitors had mistaken the center for a zoo, with captured tortoises on display. Others didn't understand why hunting and elimination of introduced predators are necessary. My experience in interpretation, coupled with my command of written Spanish, helped me clarify some of the misconceptions.

New interpretive displays will include replica cutaway turtle nests, sound recordings of tortoise noises, a video of a tortoise rescue during a volcanic eruption, and interactive flip-panels showing damage that introduced animals have done to tortoise nests and habitat.

In my spare time, I walked a boardwalk through mangroves to a transparent lagoon, with sea birds, frolicking sea lions, and colorful fish. On a beach of sand and lava, I saw a colony of big marine iguanas. They were so ugly, they were beautiful. They climb and lie all over each other, and snort a spray from their nostrils that eliminates salt from the water they drink.

## Lanny's Leavin'

**By Ann Bond**

**DOLORES** — Lanny Wagner, BLM Law Enforcement Ranger for the San Juan, leaves for Santa Fe this month to become BLM's New Mexico State Staff Ranger.

He'll be responsible for coordinating the BLM's Law Enforcement program in the state, providing equipment and training, and handling personnel issues, for up to 15 Law Enforcement Rangers.

His little brother, Noel, is also taking a new job right down I-25 in Albuquerque as a BLM Special Agent. They won't be working together but will report to the same supervisor.

Lanny has worked for the San Juan for 11 years.

"This has been the best duty station I've ever had with the government," he says. "I still call southwest Colorado home and am keeping my house near Summit Lake."

Lanny came to the San Juan from the BLM Barstow Field Office in California where he worked as a law enforcement ranger for four years. Prior to that, he was a NPS law enforcement ranger for two years at the Naches Trace Parkway in Mississippi. He was also a seasonal ranger at several other National Parks for four years before that.

Lanny grew up in the Florida Panhandle and holds a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Management from Penn State.

While in Santa Fe, he hopes to have time to further his interest in professional nature and landscape photography.



Photo by Lisa Richardson

**Lanny Wagner on a day of foot patrol along the boundary of the Weminuche Wilderness and BLM near Silverton at 12,000'.**

# WHAT DID YOU DO ON SUMMER VACATION?



That's me on the summit of 14,410' Mt. Rainier in Washington. I had climbed it in 1996, but this time, a friend and I took a more difficult route, which involved 5,000' of the steepest snow I've ever been on, not to mention the loss of one of my big toenails. We were the first party to summit this route this year. We started at 1 a.m. and reached the top at 8:30 a.m. on June 3rd. This was a warm-up for an attempt on Denali next year.

- David Baker, Longterm Fire Rehab Team Leader



I took my daughter, Andrea, on a Royal Caribbean cruise to celebrate her high school graduation. We spent 10 days cruising from Miami to Haiti (where Andrea got the cornrows - that's her on the right). In Jamaica, we rode horseback in the ocean. In Grand Cayman, we swam with stingrays, and in Cozumel, we toured Mayan ruins. Here's sunset our last night aboard ship.

- Linda Tanny, Contracting Specialist

I went to Flagstaff to participate in the Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in July with the Westwind Pipe Band (I'm third from left). This was the day before we started U.S. Bagpiping School at Northern Arizona University.



- Laurie Robison,  
Fire Prevention Technician



My daughter, Alex and I were visiting the Birch Scripps Aquarium in La Jolla, California this August when the shark attacked. Fortunately, we were able to escape unharmed and had a wonderful time hanging around the pool and the beach. We were on a family vacation visiting Alex's grandfather, John Baker, and picking up a bunch of David's old childhood junk.



- Jamie Sellar-Baker



I went on a mountain bike hut-to-hut trip that covered 200-plus miles from Telluride to Moab in a week on mostly dirt roads. It took a full week and was fabulous!



- Kay Zillich, Hydrologist



Here I am in Italy this July in front of the Duomo, the most famous landmark in Florence. If I look a bit frazzled, it's because I'd been traveling for 24 hours, and it was 104°. I toured Tuscany by bicycle, riding 400 kilometers in eight days. The terrain was hilly, and we rode past olive orchards, cypress and chestnut groves, and vineyards. The region is known for medieval hilltop villages and fortresses, and gourmet cuisine (the eight-course dinners lasted two hours and featured three different wines).

- Tom Harris, Writer-Editor



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